

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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O R 201550Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 224

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MOSCOW 2633

FOR EUR/SOV; USIA FOR IEU/DEMITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJECT: WORLD TEAM TENNIS

REF: MOSCOW 2320

1. VLADIMIR GALENKO OF SOVIET TENNIS FEDERATION INFORMED EMBASSY TODAY THAT FEDERATION REMAINS EAGER SEE WORLD TEAM TENNIS-USSR MATCHES PROCEED AS SCHEDULED IN MOSCOW, MARCH 8-9. THEY INCREASINGLY OF OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT WTT NOW HOLDING BACK, AS INTERNATIONAL LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION HAS CRITICIZED THE PROPOSED MATCHES. TODAY AND THROUGH WEEKEND SOVIET FEDERATION WILL TRY TO SPEAK ON PHONE WITH KING AND STANLEY MALLESS, PRESIDENT OF THE US TENNIS ASSOCIATION, TO ASCERTAIN REAL CHANCES BRINGING OFF MUCH TOUTED MATCHES.

2. ON OTHER HAND, CALL FROM LARRY KING TO AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 19 INDICATED WTT DESIRE PROCEED WITH MATCHES BUT INCREASING SUSPICION SOVIETS NOW HOLDING BACK, FEARFUL THAT NEGATIVE INTERCESSION INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MAY JEOPARDIZE OTHER LUCRATIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

3. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED GALENKO THAT MR. AND MRS. MALLESS WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING WTT GROUP TO MOSCOW AND, THOUGH STAYING WITH GROUP IN HOTEL, WOULD BE "GUESTS OF US
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EMBASSY." (ASK DEMITZ OF USIA INFORM MALLESS, (TELEPHONE

(317) 5471336 HOW TO APPLY FOR SUCH VISA FOR SELF AND WIFE.) GALENKO APPRECIATED INFORMATION AS EXPRESSION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL INTEREST SUCCESS THIS PROJECT, ALSO OF US TENNIS ASSOCIATION'S IN SUCCESSFUL FIRST MATCHES IN WHAT IS ENVISAGED AS ANNUAL SPORTS EXCHANGE.

4. SUUGGEST DEMITZ CONTACT KING (TELEPHONE: (415) 5741600) AND MALLES, CONVEYING IMPRESSION SOVIET TENNIS FEDERATION THAT ONLY A MORE FORCEFUL STANCE BY WTT NCESSARY TO PERMIT MATERIALIZATION FINAL PLANS, ALSO THAT SOVIET FEDERATION WISHES SETTLE MATTER EARLY NEXT WEEK.
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